



Financing Your Graduate Education

Presented by Fran Saveriano & Valery King – Spring 2012



Workshop Goals

- Awareness of terminology within the graduate funding environment
- Some sources of grad financial support both internal & external to OSU
- Preparing for your search for financial support
- Tips, tools and techniques for database searching
- Q & A
- Hands-on searching

Terminology Matters

But *why*???

- Locally
- Nationally

Terms you should you be clear about:

- Graduate assistantship, fellowship, traineeship
- Graduate student worker (hourly wage appointment)
- Graduate scholarship
- Internships, residential fellowships & international collaborations
- Grants and grants-in-aid

Sources of Funding – Internal to OSU

- Academic Programs
- Graduate School
- Financial Aid
- ASOSU



Sources of Funding – External to OSU

- Begin by looking at [Graduate School site](#)
- Sources include:
 - **Federal Agencies**, such as [NSF](#), EPA, NOAA, DOD, DOE
 - **Industry**, such as IBM, Xerox, [Semiconductor Research Corp](#)
 - **Foundations & Private Organizations**, like [AAUW](#), [HHMI](#), [Alfred P. Sloan Foundation](#), [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#), [Ford Foundation](#), [Bullitt Foundation](#), the [Hertz Foundation](#)



Sources of Funding for International Students

- [NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants](#)
 - Students must be enrolled at US institution
 - Need not be a US citizen
 - Must have advanced to candidacy before submission deadline
 - Proposal must be submitted by major professor
- [Ford Foundation International Fellowships](#)
 - Must be resident of eligible country
 - Any academic field related to Ford's strategic areas (see link)
 - Funding level and duration determined in the selection process
- [Margaret McNamara Memorial Fund](#)
 - Part of the World Bank Family Network
 - Grants to women from developing countries

Sources of Funding for International Students

- Open Society Institute and Soros Foundation
 - OSI works to build vibrant & tolerant democracies
 - Soros Foundations are autonomous entities in various countries/regions
 - Profiles of each foundation determined by the local board
- American Association of University Women (AAUW)
 - Supports international women for one year of full time study in graduate program
- International Federation of University Women
 - Supports women in the second year of doctoral study & beyond
 - No academic field restrictions
- IEFA
 - Searchable database
- International Student Loan Center
 - Requires a US citizen co-signer

Prepare Before You Start Your Search



- Define yourself
- Define your field
- Define your project

NSF GRF Application Materials (as of January 2012)



1. Personal Statement Essay (2 pages)
2. Previous Research Experience Essay (2 pages)
3. Proposed Plan of Research Essay (2 pages)
4. Three Letters of Reference
5. Transcripts



Creating Key Words

Effect of acid rain on reproduction of freshwater fish in Connecticut River Valley Massachusetts¹

Science	Conservation	Biological Sciences
Industrial pollution	Ecology	Fish
Water pollution	Lakes & Rivers	Agriculture & natural resources
Wildlife	Limnology	Recreation & leisure activities
Population biology	Sport fishing	Reproductive biology
Environmental Studies	Acid rain	Northeast U.S.
Connecticut River Valley	Systematics	Massachusetts

¹ Peterson's Grants for Graduate and Postdoctoral Study, 4th ed., Princeton, N.J., 1995

Database Searching:

Tools to use

to sleuth out

helpful

search results



Save time, save effort

Aggregated sources of information


Come in several forms

- Federal government websites and databases
- Subscription databases
- Web-based college grant organizations
 - Beware of those requiring fees!
- Reference books
 - Yes, there are still a few

*Link to Library Guide to [Grants](#) or find it on the library's web page under *Find It - Help - Subject/Discipline Guides**



Some grant databases...

- Grants.gov (Federal government agencies) – free
 - Primarily institutional – very little available for individuals
- [Foundation Center](http://FoundationCenter.com) (private foundations) – subscription
 - Does cater to individuals (Foundation Grants to Individuals Online subscription)
 - Free FAQs, tutorials and grant seeking tips can be valuable to you
-  **IRIS** (Illinois Researcher Information Service) – institutional subscription
 - OSU is a subscriber



What is IRIS?



A database that pulls together information about funding opportunities from a variety of sources

Coverage:

- Federal agencies: *excellent!*
- Private foundations (large- to mid-size) : *fair to good*
- Not-for-profits (e.g. associations, libraries, museums): *fair*

Not good for:

- Business/industry grants
- State programs

Funding Opportunities in IRIS

Research activities in all subject areas

Also good for

- Education
- Equipment
- Seminars, Conferences, Travel, and more

Who can find information:

- Most opportunities are for the **terminal degree** holder (usually Ph.D.)
- BUT other types of applicants are supported, including graduate students



Searching IRIS: *start simple*

Simple terms = broad results

- Useful for learning the “lay of the land”
- Many grants cover very broad areas – don’t eliminate opportunities prematurely!
- Limit search later, with variables, other specifics

Start with fairly **broad** search terms

- Think **subject areas**, not specific topics (*especially* in humanities & social sciences)

Choosing Keywords

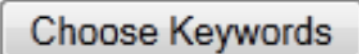
- Keywords define sponsor interests
- Some sponsors are highly specific, others are more vague
- *IRIS keyword thesaurus* can help (recommended)
- Database arrangement is *hierarchical* (general --> specific)
 - Broader terms may incorporate more specific terms (i.e., **Medical Sciences** includes **sports medicine**)



Using the Thesaurus

Use a **Keyword Thesaurus** term if possible

The “official” IRIS vocabulary applied to all funding opportunities

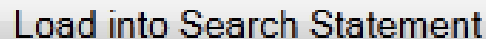
Click on  to access

Browse subject area; click box on preferred keyword

Example:

Earth Sciences

- Earth Sciences
- Oceanography
- ... Dynamic Oceanography
- **Sea Surface Waves**









Field Searching

You *don't* have to use every field in the search screen

SEARCH CLEAR Sort Results By Sponsor ▾

AND ▾

AND ▾

AND ▾

AND ▾

AND ▾

Search ALL Fields = ▾

Sponsor = ▾

Program Title = ▾

Deadlines (MM/DD/YYYY) = ▾

Program Abstract = ▾

IRIS Keywords = ▾

Connect with
Boolean
operators...

For more information on searching IRIS

see OSU Libraries' *Tutorials* page:

<http://ica.library.oregonstate.edu/tutorials/>

or click on the *Search Tips* link in the IRIS database

The Funding Dynamic

- Scholars need sponsors; Sponsors need scholars

- Match values and goals



- Understand what might be expected

- Determine the closest fit



Some Parting Tips

- Plan ahead
- Take action
- Capitalize on your success
- Critique, critique, critique
- Be patient with the process
- Treat this as a learning experience
- Enjoy the journey!



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